

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

HASSAN DIAB,

Plaintiff,

Case No.
Honorable

v.

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.

Defendant.

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Hassan Diab

CIVIL COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, Hassan Diab (“Plaintiff”), through his attorneys, alleges the following against JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., (“Defendant”):

INTRODUCTION

1. Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint is based upon the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227. The TCPA is a federal statute that broadly regulates the use of automated telephone equipment. Among other things, the TCPA prohibits certain unsolicited marketing calls, restricts the use of automatic dialers or prerecorded messages, and delegates rulemaking authority to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").
2. Count II of Plaintiff's Complaint is based upon the Invasion of Privacy - Intrusion upon Seclusion, as derived from § 652B of the Restatement (Second) of Torts. § 652B prohibits an intentional intrusion, "physically or otherwise, upon the solitude or seclusion of another or her private affairs or concerns... that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Subject matter jurisdiction of the Court arises under 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq. and 28 U.S.C. 1331.
4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b)(1) in that a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District.
5. Defendant is at home and transacts business in this District, thus personal jurisdiction is established.

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PARTIES

6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in the Wayne County, State of Michigan.
7. Defendant is a banking institution engaged in the business of issuing credit cards, with their principal place of business located in 1111 Polaris Parkway Columbus, OH 43240. Defendant can be served with process at CT Corporation System, 4400 Easton Commons Way, Suite 125, Columbus Oh 43219.
8. Defendants acted through their agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. In early 2020, Plaintiff became unemployed and was unable to find new work after the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown implemented by the Governor of the State of Michigan.
10. As a result of his financial limitations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Plaintiff was unable to keep up with his monthly obligations, specifically his Chase Bank accounts.
11. Upon information and belief, after Plaintiff fell behind on his Chase Bank accounts, the interest rates increased and late payments were added to the account balances, making it even more difficult to make the monthly payment.
12. In or around March of 2020, Defendant began placing calls to Plaintiff's

cellular phone number ending in 6060, in an attempt to collect an alleged debt.

13. The calls placed by Defendant originated from the following numbers: 602-221-7998, 210-520-2593, and 407-732-2414.

14. On or about April 14, 2020 at 3:54 p.m., Plaintiff answered a collection call from Defendant; Plaintiff heard a pause before the collection agent began to speak, indicating the use of an automated telephone dialing system; Plaintiff spoke with Defendant's representative from telephone number (210) 520-2593.

15. Defendant informed Plaintiff that it was attempting to collect a debt relating to his Chase credit card account.

16. On the call, Plaintiff explained that he was experiencing a financial hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic and was unable to make a payment. Plaintiff further requested that all future communications be sent by mail only, and unequivocally revoked consent to be called any further. Despite Plaintiff's request not to be contacted, Defendant continued to call Plaintiff.

17. Between April 14, 2020 and May 5, 2020, Plaintiff answered an additional seven (7) calls from Defendant providing the same

18. Between April 14, 2020 and September 30, 2020, Defendant called Plaintiff no less than one hundred and thirty-five (135) times.

19. Defendant called Plaintiff between one (1) and four (4) times a day and on two occasions, six (6) times in one day.

20. Many times, when Plaintiff answered calls from Defendant, there was a pre-recorded message or no person on the phone.

21. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has sustained actual damages including but not limited to, emotional and mental pain and anguish.

COUNT I
Defendant's Violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227

22. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through twenty-one (21) as though set forth at length herein.

23. Defendant violated the TCPA. Defendant's violations include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Within four years prior to the filing of this action, on multiple occasions, Defendants violated TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(iii) which states in pertinent part, "It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States . . . to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice — to any telephone number assigned to a . . . cellular telephone service . . . or any service for which the called party is charged for the call."

b. Within four years prior to the filing of this action, on multiple occasions, Defendant willfully and/or knowingly contacted Plaintiff at Plaintiff's cellular telephone using an artificial prerecorded voice or an automatic

telephone dialing system and as such, Defendant knowing and/or willfully violated the TCPA.

24. As a result of Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B). If the Court finds that Defendant knowingly and/or willfully violated the TCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), for each and every violation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C)

COUNT II
Defendant's Invasion of Privacy
(Intrusion upon Seclusion)

25. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through twenty-four (24) as though set forth at length herein.

26. Defendant violated Plaintiff's privacy. Defendant's violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Defendant intentionally intruded, physically or otherwise, upon Plaintiff's solitude and seclusion by engaging in harassing phone calls in an attempt to collect on an alleged debt despite requests for the calls to cease.
- b. Defendant's conduct would be highly offensive to a reasonable person as Plaintiff received calls after explaining that she was unable to make a

payment due to his inability to pay and instructed them to only communicate with him in writing.

- c. Defendant's acts, as described above, were done intentionally with the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.

27. As a result of Defendant's violations of Plaintiff's privacy, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for actual damages. If the Court finds that the conduct is found to be egregious, Plaintiff may recover punitive damages.

PRAAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Hassan Diab, respectfully requests judgment be entered against Defendant, Chase Bank USA, N.A., for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant violated the TCPA;
- B. Statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C);
- C. Actual and punitive damages resulting from the invasion of privacy;
- D. Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law;
- E. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Please take notice that Plaintiff demands a trial by jury in this action.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PRICE LAW GROUP, APC

Date: January 19, 2021

By: /s/*David A. Chami*
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